

## OTHER NOTICES

**Du Cann, C. G. L.** *Marriage: Sacerdotal or Secular?* London 1954. Pioneer Press. Pp. 36. Price 1s.

THIS booklet claims to be "an inquiry into whether the Marriage Ceremony is the business of the Church or the State." This is an easy question. Those who do not belong to the Church should not persecute it for having doctrines and ceremonies concerning marriage but they should not be married in church or criticize the church service; nor have they any need to, for there is available for them a register office marriage which for civil purposes is equally binding and yet dissoluble by the Court. In England at the present time the attitude of the Church is more easily defensible than that of the State. Whether it is a sacrament or not, a man who has declared that he has entered into a unique relationship with a woman lasting for their joint lives cannot rationally claim to enter into the same relationship with another woman any more than he can truthfully say that two persons are both the only girl in the world or honestly convey the same property to two separate purchasers. But that is what now occurs. Divorce was a concession not only to the hard-hearted but to the muddle-minded. As a rare exception it passed unnoticed; now with one marriage in six terminating in divorce, the divorce court is an absurdity and would be no less so, if marriages were dissoluble in theory, as they are in practice, by consent. Persons getting married ought to be made to declare whether their marriage is intended to be dissoluble or not. It may be objected that a dissoluble marriage is pointless except as a protection for children, which Mr. Du Cann ignores, or to make financial provision for women, of which he disapproves. His criticisms of the present divorce court are familiar and unanswerable, but he probably overestimates the number of cases which are collusive or based on faked evidence since it is so easy to obtain a decree without lying; and his reference to poor persons' divorces is obsolete.

CECIL BINNEY.

**Emmett, W. G.** Secondary and Modern Grammar School Performance predicted by Tests given in Primary Schools. *British Journal of Educational Psychology*, **24**, 91-98.

**Nisbet, J. D.** A Twenty-Year Follow-up of Intelligence Test Scores. *The Advancement of Science*, **41**, 13-16.

INTELLIGENCE tests are constantly under attack, but continue to be used because of their undoubted predictive value. Their worth is greatest perhaps

during the school period, but extends beyond it. W. G. Emmett of Moray House, Edinburgh, has recently made a comparison in the West Riding of Yorkshire of the scores made by a complete year-group of primary school children on Moray House tests in English and arithmetic (given thrice, in March, June and November 1947) and on a single intelligence test (given once in November, 1947) with the children's performance as assessed by their teachers in twelve grammar (985 children) and thirteen modern (939 children) schools in 1951. For the grammar school children the intelligence test was a better predictor of later performance than either the English or arithmetic tests, although the latter tests were given three times and the intelligence test only once. For the modern school children, where the curriculum included subjects such as needlework and physical education, the intelligence test predicted better than the English tests but slightly worse than the arithmetic tests. The accuracy of prediction for success in both types of secondary school was, however, much improved by using the English and arithmetic tests in addition to the intelligence tests.

The predictive value of intelligence tests for success in later life is less well established. There is evidence that for professional success in a particular occupation a certain minimum score on intelligence tests is required. But beyond this level other qualities are more important for success. In the case of medical students, experiment has shown that though there is a general correlation of intelligence test score at entry with performance in the final examinations, it is not particularly high. The chief value in this field of tests would be to pick out a small number of students who will never get through the medical course in spite of having passed the numerous examination hurdles on the way. It would be valuable to have a longer follow-up correlating intelligence test scores not only with success in the final examinations but with success in the later specialist examinations and success in professional life. Dr. J. D. Nisbet has recently carried out such a long-term follow-up for members of the teaching profession who attended the Teachers Training College at Aberdeen between the years 1930-34. Of the original group 266 were traced of whom 222 were still teaching. The criterion of professional success used was the responsibility of the post attained in 1953. This was measured on a five-point scale which corresponded closely to income on the Teviot Scale (the scale covering the salaries of teachers in Scotland). It was found that the intelligence test score was a better predictor of success by this criterion than either the teaching mark awarded by the students' supervisor at the College or the general College assessment of the students' teaching capacity. The intelligence test score was slightly less accurate

in prediction than the student's university performance, but the latter gives a spuriously high correlation, since the candidate's type of university degree is known to selection committees deciding promotion, while the intelligence tests are not known to anyone outside the College. The general trend is well illustrated by the highest and lowest scorers. Of the eighteen students who scored highest on the intelligence test eight now have posts of responsibility, three have not gained promotion, five have left the teaching profession, two were not traced. Of the fifteen low scorers only four are still teaching and only one is in a position of (minor) responsibility; five have left teaching and six could not be traced. C. O. C.

**Field, Henry.** *Contributions to the Anthropology of the Caucasus.* Papers of the Peabody Museum of American Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Vol. xlviii, No. 1. Cambridge, Mass. 1953. Peabody Museum. Pp. x + 154. Price \$6.50.

WHEN, in 1934, the Field Museum Anthropological Expedition to the Near East had finished its work in Iraq and Iran, two of its members went on to the U.S.S.R. to study the Caucasus. In this volume they present their observations, together with a collection of earlier writings on the area.

Dr. Field applies to the Caucasus his usual exhaustive methods, but whereas in the previous study there had been a definite objective in view and the mass of data led to some interesting conclusions, this volume presents the sorry spectacle of scholarship run riot. It is hard to see how anything of real value could have been expected to come out of the work as planned, and no attempt is made to gather together the loose ends and arrive at any conclusions. The twenty years spent in preparing for publication the fruits of a few days' measuring, together with the increasing inaccessibility of the area studied, are no doubt partly to blame for the unfortunate impression this book gives: that it is a mine of almost useless information. As if to compensate for the paucity of significant anthropometric material, a lot of space is devoted to a glorified guide-book to the Caucasus, which the reviewer is not qualified to discuss. The only groups studied at first hand are the Osetes—who come from a small area in the centre of the Caucasus—and the Yezidis. An interesting section on the Jews is all at second hand, and summarizes the observations of earlier workers. The author divides the Osetes into four sub-groups, but no real difference can be demonstrated between them. The so-called significant differences which he claims to find between the mountain and plains Osetes in certain measurements nowhere amount to more than 2.4 times the standard error of the difference: not a very convincing figure when one of the samples contains only thirty-eight individuals.

The shortcomings of the Iraq volumes\*—inadequate anthroposcopic standards, excessive tabulation and naïve medical deductions—seem somehow more irritating in this less fruitful study. In particular it can be misleading to translate often rather spurious data into percentages worked out to two places of decimals, when the whole sample never numbers more than 106, and is often much smaller. And is Dr. Field really satisfied that "the healthy mountain air" is largely responsible for good eyesight, and that clinical anæmia is more frequent among the women simply because they "do harder work and do not get as good nourishment as the men"?

T. W. HOSKINS.

**Galton, Lawrence.** *New Facts for the Childless.* London, 1954. Gollancz. Pp. 191. Price 13s. 6d.

HERE is yet another book with information for infertile couples but also of value to the general practitioner since it is written for a somewhat higher plane of intelligence than many of the popular books on this theme; moreover most of the information is carefully selected and accurate, though there are certain lapses and omissions. For example, the author states that the best time for collecting a fragment of endometrium for biopsy is just after menstruation starts, whereas, for judging the secretory response from the histological point of view, this is certainly not so; also he does not even mention the second and extremely important function of endometrial biopsy in detecting tuberculous endometritis, a condition which spells complete sterility and which may be entirely missed unless sought for in sections of the endometrium. Again, later in the book, he talks about endometriosis as an infection and gives credence to the statement that motile sperm can be found in fragments of testicular tissue removed by operation. However, the general emphasis of the book is sound; the combined nature of the problem is well stressed and also the fact that it is seldom a matter of having to deal with only one major sterility factor but rather of having to correct a number of small factors in both partners. He describes the various diagnostic procedures adequately but, surprisingly enough, places examination of cervical mucus and post-coital tests last in the list whereas it would be more correct to put these procedures first.

Therapeutic measures are well discussed but the author tends to be too optimistic in his estimates of successful outcome, particularly so when discussing the treatment of tubal occlusion.

Perhaps the most disappointing thing from an English reader's point of view is that although the book is by an Englishman and published by a London firm yet it is evidently addressed to an

\* See *EUGENICS REVIEW*, 45, 191

American public and almost all the papers and work quoted are American in origin, the fundamental work done on this side of the Atlantic by doctors and scientists being virtually ignored.

MARGARET HADLEY JACKSON.

**Mullins, Claud.** *Marriage Failures and the Children.* London, 1954. Epworth. Pp. 60. Price 5s.

THIS small book is a Beckley Social Service Lecture—thus one of a Christian Church Series. Mr. Mullins is a well-known magistrate and writer with long practical experience of social problems. One excellent point he makes in this book is that neither party should be called the innocent or the guilty party. On page 38 he says "Clergy who are today willing to remarry a divorced person are apt to cling to the title of Innocent Party as a justification of their action. But only very rarely are they in a position to know whether this label is justified."

As the title implies, divorce is considered chiefly from the point of view of the children, i.e. of the effect it may have on them. No one can quarrel with the author's conviction that people should be better prepared for marriage and face up to its responsibilities, and that it would be happier for themselves and less harmful to their offspring and to the community if they were less ignorant and selfish. Mr. Mullins believes that most young people enter upon marriage, and later upon divorce, without any idea of what either of them entail. He goes further and considers that many of our so-called modern reforms have made matters worse. He attributes some of the more harmful aspects of the "predominant political ideas of today" to the fact that "Sidney Webb and Lord Beveridge did not themselves have the beneficial and educative experience of parenthood." He believes that the Welfare State is undermining and even destroying all parental responsibility, although he agrees with the psychologists and Jesuits that character is formed by the age of seven.

He does not seem to have faced the probability that bad parents are often mentally defective as well as ignorant, and that where parents neglect and even abandon their children no amount of education could have made them into normal people, or fit to have children at all. But, with this reservation, we can whole-heartedly advise all those married, about to be married, or in any way connected with the upbringing of children, to read and ponder this sincere and helpful booklet, and thus give themselves a well-spent and, let us hope, fruitful half-hour.

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

**UNESCO.** *Men Against Ignorance.* Paris, 1953. UNESCO. Pp. 81. Price 3s.

THIS pamphlet tells the story of educational advance in sixteen different countries, in Asia,

Africa and Latin America. It suffers from this diversity of subject matter and from the diversity of authors. Those qualities which make for liveliness in a series of newspaper articles tend to pall when the snippets are gathered together into a book.

Nevertheless, although it is not such a success as *Men against the Desert*—which had the advantage of a single author—the story is an inspiring one, and the countries concerned are too rarely in the news. The knowledge of how to control malaria is increasing the yield of crops in Afghanistan and Pakistan, whilst Ceylon has its own D.D.T. factory and can control the mosquito itself. When eighty per cent or more of a population is illiterate, progress of any kind is inevitably slow, but co-operation with experts from all over the world speeds up the process enormously.

Some of the incidents that stand out are the Javanese teacher who sets all his lessons to the five traditional song tunes; the team of teachers from eighteen different Latin American countries who learn in the backward villages of Mexico how to train other teachers to train still more teachers; and the practical experience in Senegal that discovered that night and not day is the best time for teaching because there is coolness, men are back from the fields, and men of the superior caste are not ashamed to mix with workers and servants in the darkness.

The money we spend on UNESCO will pay big dividends one day.

KENNETH HUTTON.

**World Health Organization.** Technical Report Series, No. 70, *Final Report of the Joint UN/WHO Meeting of Experts on the Mental-Health Aspects of Adoption.* Geneva, 1953. W.H.O. Pp. 19. Price 1s. 3d.

THE aim of this report is to improve adoption procedures, particularly in Western countries, by drawing attention to those principles of mental health which are fundamental to good adoption practice.

Granted that adoption is the most satisfying way of giving family relationships and family life to a child in need of them, its main purpose should be to ensure the well-being of the child, with the desires of childless people as a secondary consideration. The problem is then the provision of an adoption situation which encourages the wholesome development of the child by assuring him sustained parental care and the security of a family setting.

Some important factors to be considered in assessing the suitability of the home and the prospective adopting parents are: the quality of parental feeling in the adopting parents; the quality of the marital relationship; their age and that of the child; and the presence in the adopting family of other children.

The viewpoint of the adopting parents also requires consideration. They may ask for some assessment of the child's mental capacity and for information as to his heredity. The difficulties in appraising the intellectual potentialities of a child, particularly at an early age, are pointed out in the report. It is suggested that persons who want to adopt infants should be told: "This child may turn out to be of average ability, below average, or superior. So might one of your own! If emotionally you in honesty cannot incorporate a child into your life whether he be slow or accelerated, perhaps you should not take the risk nor allow him to take the risk that every parent and child has when, for better or worse, by delivery or adoption, their lives become enmeshed."

Throughout the report, stress is laid on the necessity for skilled and understanding personnel to carry out the "very complicated processes" of adoption—personnel with an awareness of what these processes may mean to the people involved, particularly to the adopted child.

K. H.

**World Health Organization.** Technical Report Series, No. 85, *Report of the First International Conference of National Committees on Vital and Health Statistics*. Geneva, 1954. W.H.O. Pp. 22. Price 1s. 9d.

THIS report reviews the antecedents, objectives, patterns of organization and programmes of work carried out by national committees on vital and health statistics and similar bodies and discusses the progress already made and the future possibilities as well as the important role of these committees in the development of vital and health statistics.

The type of statistics which would be of the greatest practical value in each of three classes of areas are considered separately: (a) those with highly-developed health and statistical services, (b) those in an intermediate stage of development or of unequal development, and (c) those with underdeveloped health and statistical services. Specific suggestions and recommendations are made for each of these groups.

One section of the report outlines methods of improving the quality of health statistics. The possible advantages of applying modern sampling techniques on a wider scale are noted. Attention is drawn to the importance of giving instructions to medical practitioners on the proper certification of death and of securing their wider appreciation of various types of vital and health statistics and of training personnel for statistical work. The final section is devoted to the implementation of international statistical regulations or recommendations.

K. H.

## PERIODICALS

### American Journal of Human Genetics

**June 1954. Vol. 6, No. 2.**—*The Problem of Adaptive Differences in Human Populations.*—By T. Dobzhansky and B. Wallace.—The authors discuss the lessons to be learned about the adaptive differences in human populations from studies in wild populations of the fruit-fly. Most individual wild flies are heterozygous for recessive genes or gene complexes which produce abnormalities in the homozygous state. In certain populations it has been shown that almost every chromosome is deleterious when homozygous. Many of these genes are also harmful in the heterozygous state, but there are a number of instances known where the heterozygotes are slightly fitter than the normals. The fitness of the heterozygote may vary according to the other genes with which it is associated. There is some reason to believe that species which are widespread, common and ecologically versatile, are genetically most variable, show most pronounced heterosis and suffer most from inbreeding. Rare and ecologically specialised forms are most resistant to inbreeding.

This work suggests that there are likely to be two sorts of genetic variants in man. First there are rare deleterious mutants. Secondly there are gene

variants which are prominent and not uncommon constituents of the gene pool of the population. Some of these would be mildly deleterious when homozygous but their numerous heterozygous combinations provide the adaptability which attune a widespread species to its environments.

*Implications of Some Recent Developments in Hematological and Serological Genetics.*—By J. V. Neel.—The author describes the genetically determined abnormalities in the formation of haemoglobin. Each of these has a considerable selective importance. Mediterranean anaemia is due to a gene which in the heterozygous state produces mild anaemia and severe anaemia in the homozygous state. Most patients with the severe anaemia die in childhood. It is common in the Eastern Mediterranean and recently a high incidence has been reported from Siam. The action of the gene appears to be to inhibit the formation of normal haemoglobin. Sickle-cell anaemia is due to a gene which produces an abnormal form of haemoglobin. Those heterozygous for this gene show a proportion of sickle-cells in the blood but suffer no anaemia. Those homozygous for the gene show sickling and a severe anaemia which again leads to the death of the majority of patients suffering from it in childhood. It has been found in some parts of Greece,